



# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*



**Newlands Project  
Planning Study  
Public Meetings**

**August 22-25, 2011**



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

## Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview of the Newlands Project Planning Study
- Planning Study Process
- Open House

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## Goals for Today's Meeting

- Explain the focus of the planning study.
- Begin discussing how results from the Study could be used.
- Describe how the study will consider potential actions (measures) in the development of alternatives.
- Receive input on the list of measures being considered for use in the study.

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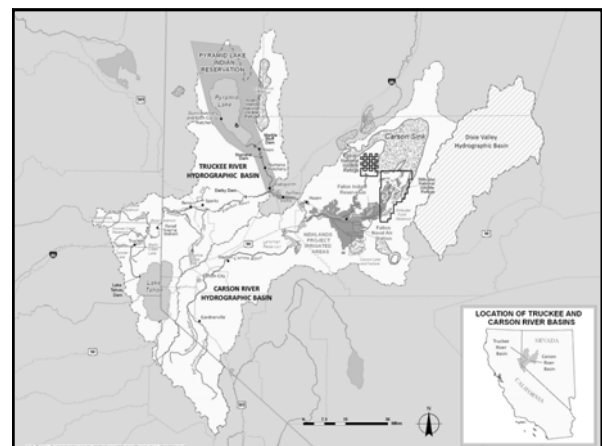
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## Newlands Project Background

- Federal irrigation project started under the Bureau of Reclamation in 1903.
- Serves water rights in the Truckee and Carson basins.
  - Truckee Division: 2,000 acres
  - Carson Division: 55,000 acres
- Operated and maintained by the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District (TCID) under contract with Reclamation since 1926.



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### A Century of Changes

- The Newlands Project's complexion has changed from exclusively serving irrigated crops to also serving wetlands and municipal users.
- Health of ecosystems in the lower Truckee River and at Pyramid Lake has increased attention on Truckee River water diversions.
- Urbanization – converting agricultural land along the Truckee Canal to residential neighborhoods – has increased the risks of operating the Project.
- These changes, in combination with aging facilities, complicate the operation and maintenance of the Project.

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### Fernley in 1948



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### Fernley in 2008



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### Truckee Canal Breach

- January 5, 2008, at around 4 am, 50 feet of the Truckee Canal's embankment collapsed.
  - 590 properties in Fernley were flooded, most to depths of 1-to-4 feet.
  - No fatalities occurred.
- Project operations were halted immediately, and the breach was sealed by 4 pm.



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### Project Challenges Following the Breach

- The Truckee Canal breach in 2008 revealed additional concerns about risks to public safety and property from operating the Truckee Canal.
- Public safety concerns have led to significant canal conveyance restrictions for the Truckee Canal.
- In the long-term, canal conveyance restrictions may reduce the water supply reliability and/or viability of the Newlands Project.

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### Study Purpose and Authorization

- Identify plans for the Newlands Project that serve water rights safely, and also maintain the reliability of water supplies and the viability of the Project.
- 2009 Federal Omnibus Appropriations Act: Funding to “determine the full extent of rehabilitation needed for the canal to resume flows above 350 cubic feet per second.”
  - Assess the canal's problems and risks.
  - Develop canal risk reduction alternatives.
  - Conduct a planning study to investigate Project alternatives.

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## Objectives for the Planning Study

Develop a range of alternatives focused on delivering water to the diverse blend of Newlands Project water rights holders in a way that...

- ✓ Provides safety for people and property adjacent to the Truckee Canal;
- ✓ Provides a reliable water supply; and
- ✓ Maintains the viability of the Project.

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## Planning Study Outcomes

A Special Report will summarize findings of the Newlands Project Planning Study.

The Special Report **IS**...

- Exploratory in nature.
- Intended to help local, state, or federal decision-makers guide the Project's future.

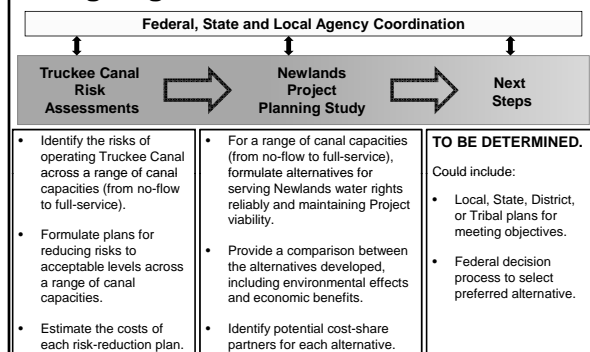
The Special Report is **NOT**...

- An environmental review document.
- A feasibility study.
- A plan for federal action.
- A federal decision document.

The Special Report is anticipated in Fall 2012.

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## Ongoing Studies & Future Decisions



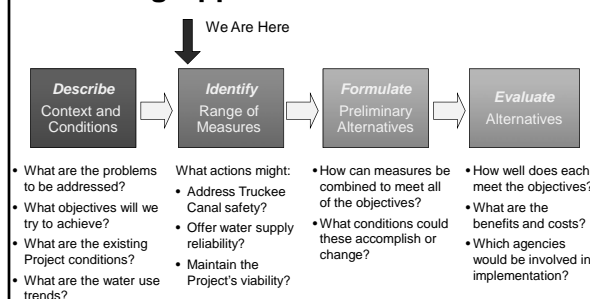
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Newlands Project Planning Study  
**STUDY PROCESS**

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## Planning Approach

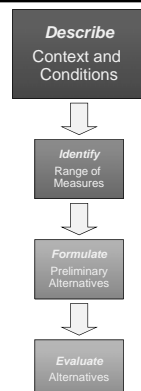


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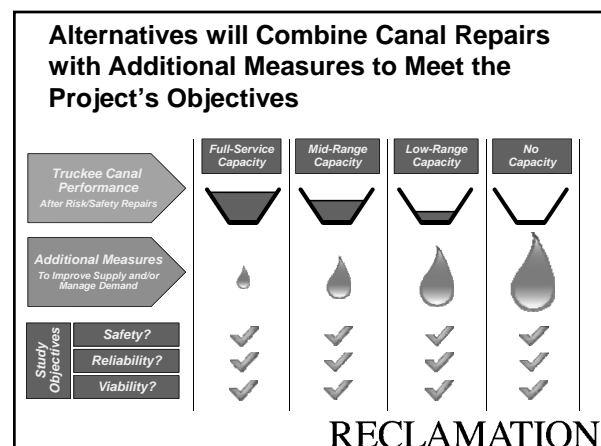
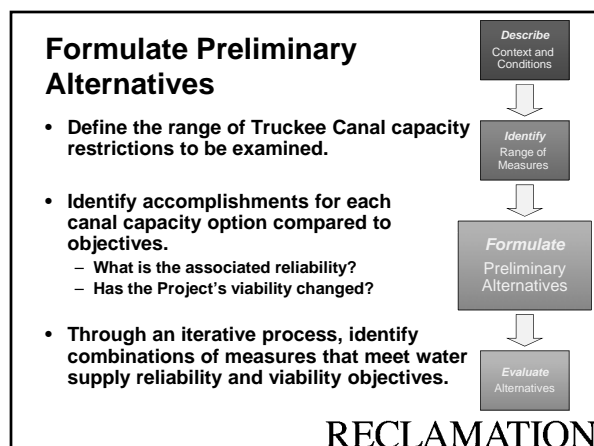
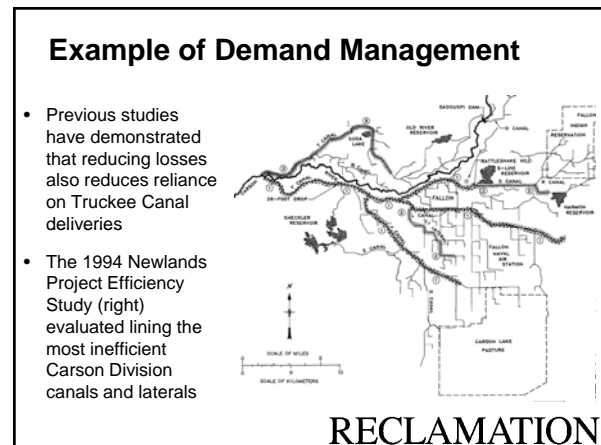
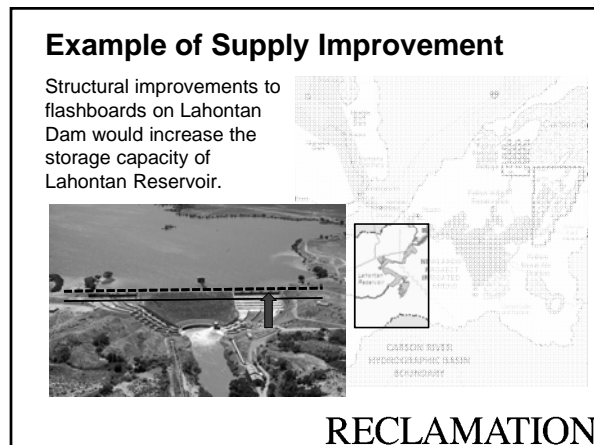
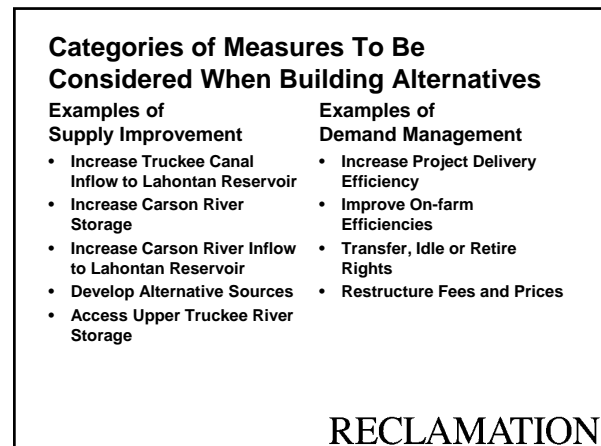
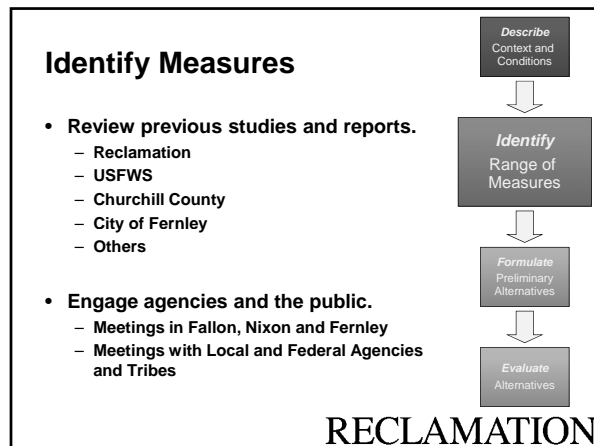
## Planning Objectives

The Newlands Project Planning Study will formulate alternatives to meet the following objectives:

- Reduce the risk to nearby communities from Project operations.
  - Truckee Canal safety
- Satisfy Newlands Project water rights.
  - Water supply reliability
  - Project viability



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## Alternatives Evaluation

- Each alternative will be formulated for each identified canal capacity, while considering:
  - Contributions toward the study objectives
  - Cost-effectiveness
  - Value of benefits
- Other features that will be noted for each alternative:
  - Preliminary environmental effects and permitting or regulatory considerations
  - Contributions to identified opportunities
  - Potential for cost-share partners
  - Stakeholder acceptability

Describe  
Context and  
Conditions

↓

Identify  
Range of  
Measures

↓

Formulate  
Preliminary  
Alternatives

↓

Evaluate  
Alternatives

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Newlands Project Planning Study  
**MEETING WRAP-UP**

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## Study Outcomes and Schedule

- Newlands Project Special Report will summarize findings of the Study.
  - Not a "decision document" for federal action.
  - Intended to help local, State or Federal decision-makers guide the Project's future.
- Schedule of Work and Milestones
 

Field Investigations	2010
Risk Analyses	2011
Planning Study	2011-12
Initial Public Meetings	Summer 2011
Presentation of Findings	Summer 2012
Special Report	Fall 2012



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## For Additional Information

Lahontan Basin Area Office Website:  
<http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lbao/>

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## OPEN HOUSE SESSION

- What are your ideas or concerns regarding the Newlands Project Planning Study?
- Are there additional measures for meeting the Study objectives that have not been identified?

Please submit comments in writing so that they may be included as part of the study

**Public Comment Card**

Please use this card to provide the Newlands Project Planning Study team comments and feedback on the information presented today. This card may be retained during the meeting or mailed at your convenience.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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